

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Canceled):

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The system of claim [1]] 18 wherein the ~~sensing means~~ sensor comprises:

at least one switch comprising a first plate and a second plate;

wherein leaking fluid within the containment member serves forms an electric current path between ~~to electrically couple~~ the first plate ~~[[to]]~~ and the second plate, ~~to, in turn, close the switch; and~~

a controller associated with the switch, the controller capable of sensing presence or absence of the current path ~~the condition of the switch; and~~

~~a connector electrically associating the switch and the controller.~~

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The system of claim 2 wherein the ~~sensing means~~ sensor further comprises:

a resistor connected ~~positioned~~ in parallel to the switch.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The system of claim 2 wherein the at least one switch comprises a plurality of switches connected ~~positioned~~ in parallel.

Claim 5 (Original): The system of claim [1]] 18, comprising at least two vertically stacked assemblies of stacked cells, with each assembly including a corresponding ~~wherein the at least one assembly~~ containment member; comprises:

wherein at least one ~~stack-leak~~ containment member associated with ~~at least one stack;~~ and

~~at least one electrolyte reservoir leak containment member associated with at least one reservoir~~ an upper assembly of the at least two stacked assemblies includes an overflow opening which directs an overflow of the electrolytic fluid into a lower containment member associated with a lower of the at least two stacked assemblies.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The system of claim 5 wherein the ~~sensing means is capable of sensing a leak in each of the stack leak containment member and the at least one electrolyte reservoir leak containment member~~ members include corresponding sensors for detecting presence of an electrolytic fluid.

Claims 7 -10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The leak detection system of claim [[7]] wherein the controller includes a means for signaling the condition of the sensor to a user.

Claims 7 - 17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A leak detection system for a flowing electrolyte battery having ~~electrolytic fluid and~~ a plurality of stacked cells and electrolytic fluid flowing through the interior of the stacked cells, the system comprising:

a ~~container~~ containment member disposed underneath ~~and in close proximity to and exterior to~~ the plurality of stacked cells, the ~~container~~ containment member collecting electrolytic fluid leaking from the plurality of stacked cells; and

a sensor disposed in a space between the interior of the container containment member and the exterior to the stacked cells, the sensor detecting the presence of electrolytic fluid in the space between the interior of the container containment member and the exterior of the stacked cells.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The leak detection system of claim 18, wherein the sensor comprises resistivity measurement circuitry.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The leak detection system of claim 19 further comprising:

leak detection logic, the leak detection logic in electrical communication with the resistivity measurement circuitry;

wherein, the leak detection logic determines the presence of electrolytic fluid based, at least in part, on the output of the resistivity measurement circuitry.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A leak detection system for a flowing electrolyte battery having a reservoir containing electrolytic fluid, comprising:

a ~~container~~ containment member disposed underneath ~~and in close proximity to and~~ external to the reservoir, the ~~container~~ containment member collecting electrolytic fluid leaking from the reservoir; and

a sensor disposed in a space between the interior of the ~~container~~ containment member and exterior to the reservoir, the sensor detecting the presence of electrolytic fluid in the space between the interior of the ~~container~~ containment member and the exterior of the reservoir.

Claim 22 (New) The system of claim 18, comprising

an electrolyte reservoir for supplying electrolytic fluid to the plurality of stacked cells, said electrolyte reservoir having a reservoir leak containment member disposed underneath and exterior to the electrolyte reservoir, and

a reservoir sensor disposed in a space between the interior of the reservoir leak containment member and the exterior to the electrolyte reservoir, the reservoir sensor detecting the presence of fluid in the space between the interior of the reservoir leak containment member and the exterior of the electrolyte reservoir.

Claim 23 (New): The system of claim 22, wherein the containment member associated with the plurality of stacked cells is located above the electrolyte reservoir containment member and includes an overflow opening which directs an overflow of the electrolytic fluid into the reservoir leak containment member disposed underneath the containment member.